

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 304414
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/P:DAKORN/MPH
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
INR:HHTAUNDERS
S/S:PTARNOFF

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O 212344Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 304414

NODIS
FROM THE SECRETARY FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, XF

SUBJECT: FILL-IN ON BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. I WANT YOU TO HAVE, FOR YOUR OWN BACKGROUND, THE FOLLOWING FILL-IN ON BEGIN'S VISIT WHICH IS MORE COMPLETE THAN THAT WHICH IS BEING PROVIDED AMBASSADORS IN MOST ALLIED CAPITALS. I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU WILL NEED TO USE THIS MATERIAL FOR BRIEFING THE BRITISH IN ANY FORMAL SENSE, FOR A FAIRLY FULL BRIEFING HAS BEEN GIVEN THEM HERE, BUT YOU ARE OF COURSE FREE TO USE IT AS YOU THINK APPROPRIATE IF THE SUBJECT ARISES.

2. BEGIN CAME TO WASHINGTON AT HIS OWN REQUEST AND MET WITH THE PRESIDENT ON DECEMBER 16 AND 17. WITH HIM HE BROUGHT A PROPOSAL FOR SELF-RULE FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND IDEAS ON SINAI, BOTH OF WHICH HE WANTED TO DIS-
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CUSS WITH THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE PROPOSAL FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA INCLUDES ELECTIONS IN THOSE AREAS AND THE FORMATION OF AN ELECTED COUNCIL TO ADMINISTER WEST BANK/GAZA DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THE PROPOSAL IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN BEGIN'S THINKING BUT IN ITS CURRENT FORM WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SATISFACTORY

TO SADAT; ONE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT IT PROVIDES FOR

CONTINUED ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. HOWEVER, THE DISCUSSIONS MADE CLEAR THAT BEGIN'S THINKING IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF FERMENTATION AND CHANGE. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION WITH AN OPEN MIND AND SEEMED PREPARED TO CHANGE HIS POSITION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS; HIS APPROACH WAS FLEXIBLE. BEGIN SAID HE WANTED TO HAVE PRESIDENT SADAT'S IDEAS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL PROPOSAL. HIS MEETING WITH SADAT HAS BEEN SET FOR DECEMBER 25. BEGIN TOLD US THAT HE VERY MUCH WANTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SADAT AND WILL LISTEN CAREFULLY TO SADAT'S VIEWS ON WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO HIM.

4. IN OUR PROBING OF BEGIN'S THINKING WE TRIED TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO CONSIDER HOW HIS WEST BANK/GAZA PROPOSAL MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE RELATED TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND HOW IT MIGHT MORE CLEARLY BE DESIGNATED AS TRANSITIONAL LEADING UP TO A FINAL REVIEW AND SETTLEMENT AFTER FIVE YEARS. OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STANCE DURING THE VISIT WAS THAT WE ARE WELL PLEASED THAT A DIRECT DIALOGUE HAS NOW BEEN OPENED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND THAT THE ULTIMATE TEST OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF ANY PROPOSALS LIES WITH THE PARTIES WHO MUST EVENTUALLY SIGN THE PEACE TREATIES. WE ENCOURAGED BEGIN TO PURSUE HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SADAT BUT CAREFULLY AVOIDED ENDORSING HIS PROPOSALS.

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5. ON SINAI, BEGIN DESCRIBED IDEAS WHICH HE HOPES WILL MEET EGYPT'S CONCERN FOR TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE PRE-1967 INTERNATIONAL EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI BORDER IN STAGES, WITH ADEQUATE MEASURES FOR ASSURING SECURITY. ALTHOUGH WE MADE CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL HAVE TO BE THE JUDGE OF WHATEVER PROPOSALS BEGIN MAY DECIDE TO MAKE, ON SINAI WE EXPECT BEGIN AND SADAT WILL FIND THEMSELVES WITHIN NEGOTIATING RANGE.

6. ONE OF THE ISSUES THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN IN THEIR UPCOMING MEETING WILL BE SADAT'S REQUEST FOR AN ISRAELI DECLARATION OF WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN THE 1967 WAR AND TO RESOLVE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, WHICH SADAT VIEWS AS THE ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP WHICH MUST PRECEDE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. BEGIN APPEARS TO BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING WAYS TO MEET SADAT'S REQUEST, THOUGH HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO PRECISELY IN THE TERMS THAT SADAT HAS ASKED.

7. IN SUM, MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN BUT A PROCESS HAS BEEN

INITIATED AND THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
HAVE IMPROVED MARKEDLY. A WALL OF DISTRUST HAS BEEN
BREACHED AND THE PARTIES ARE NOW SEEKING TO BUILD BRIDGES
RATHER THAN TO FIND WAYS TO SAY NO. VANCE

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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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O 220640Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 304414

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 21,
1977 SENT LONDON IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 304414

NODIS
FROM THE SECRETARY FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISIT, WEST BANK, GAZA, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SINAI, SELFDETERMINATION, CAT-B, AMBASSADORS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: DAKORN/MPH
Enclosure: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 152855
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FILL-IN ON BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, PGOV, US, UK, XF, IS, (BEGIN, MENACHEM), (BEGIN, MENAHM)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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